

FSC student assaulted

Students urged to use escort service

by Mike Shelton
Strobe staff

"There have been reports of violence on-campus over the weekend. Please be careful and travel in groups or call campus escort if you are going out tonight." Last Monday night's warning over the residence hall P.A. systems announced the latest confrontation between students and local residents. Fitchburg State sophomore William Thompson and two visiting friends from area colleges were assaulted on the North Street edge of campus last Sunday night.

Witness reported that a car pulled up outside the Hammond Building where Thompson, age 20 and friends, Timothy Burke, 19, and Mark Szymanski, 19, were walking and a group of young men jumped out to attack Szymanski. Reportedly, Szymanski was walking a short distance behind Thompson and Burke when he was assaulted and both men immediately went to their friend's aid.

"It happened so fast," Thompson reported, "all of a sudden these guys with baseball bats were all over Mark and I ran over to help him. The next thing I knew, I was down and they kept hitting me."

Campus police were the first to respond to the situation but the alleged assailants had already fled the scene. Fitchburg State's First Responders pro-

vided first aid to Thompson, Burke and Szymanski until the Montachusett ambulance arrived. Thompson, who was reportedly hit on the head with either a baseball bat or a tire iron, was treated for lacerations to his head at Burbank Hospital and received 12 stitches. Szymanski, was reportedly hit with a tire iron and was treated and later released from Burbank Hospital. A hospital spokesman had no record of Burke, who was reportedly hit with a baseball bat.

Witnesses identified one of the alleged attackers from police photos. Thompson was also able to identify the attacker from photos he was shown at the hospital.

Jose L. Casillas, 19, of 90 Pleasant St., was arrested at his home Monday night and charged with both assault and battery with a dangerous weapon in connection with the incident. Casillas pleaded not guilty to the charges last Tuesday at his arraignment and was released on \$5,000 personal recognizance.

The Fitchburg Sentinel printed only Angel Martinez's version of the events leading up to last week's confrontation. Martinez, 19, Casillas' cousin, claimed in the Sentinel that the students provoked the fight at the corner of Myrtle Ave. and Pearl St., by urin-

ing on a car belonging to the girlfriend of Martinez's brother Luis Ramos. According to Martinez, Casillas confronted the students saying "I don't want no trouble, and it's not your property to be doing that." Martinez also claimed that the students shouted racial slurs.

William Thompson tells a different story. According to Thompson, the incident described by Martinez never occurred and no words were exchanged between the two groups on Myrtle Avenue or anywhere else. "I don't know what he's talking about," said Thompson, "we did walk down part of Myrtle that night but we definitely weren't involved in anything like that." The FSC student claimed that he couldn't believe the Sentinel's "one-sided" coverage of the incident. "They made us sound like the bad guys and we didn't do anything except get attacked."

Thompson believes that the alleged assault may have something to do with a different incident which occurred that night in which the occupants of a Myrtle Avenue house were yelling insults at him and his friends. "It's the only unusual thing that happened that night but I didn't even see who it was - it could have been other students."

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Professors offer forums on the war

by James Finn
Strobe staff

Many Fitchburg State College faculty members are volunteering their time to help inform people about events in the Middle East. They are setting up programs open to both faculty and students who would like to better understand the war and war related events.

Beginning February 21, the English department will sponsor a weekly open forum for students, faculty and staff. The forum will be lead by Dr. Janice Alberghene and Dr. Nancy Yee and is dedicated to discussing news of the war in the Gulf.

The forum will discuss the latest events in the war and will provide analysis of what these events may mean. Dr. Alberghene and Dr. Yee want to assist people in interpreting the news in terms of what is and what is not being said. Dr. Alberghene extends an open invitation to anyone willing to contribute to, or lead in the discussions.

Dr. Alberghene feels that if students are better informed about current events, they will be able to form more intelligent opinions about the role of the United States in the current conflagration. "I asked my Freshman class what collateral damage was, and no one knew." The way in which the war is being reported makes interpreting the facts difficult. Dr. Yee and Dr. Alberghene hope to shed some light on the reality of war.

The forum will meet from 12:30 -2:30 p.m. each week. The February 21 meeting was held in Miller Oval Room, future locations will be announced. On February 21 the session covered the land war as well as soldier's stories.

On February 27, Dr. Alberghene will be joined by Dr. Harriet Alonso, professor of history, and Elaine Gardner, Associate Vice President of Undergraduate Studies. Both Dr. Alberghene and Dr. Alonso are registered draft counselors

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Library heads to 21st Century

by Jim Finn
Strobe staff

If the next time you're checking out a book at the library and you feel like your at the check-out line of a grocery store, don't be alarmed. You're in the right place. The Fitchburg State Library is currently in the process of changing to a C.W. Mars computer database.

The computerized system will make checking out books as well as finding books much easier. "The system allows you to search for a book by simply typing in the author, title or even copyright date and publisher," said Bob Foley Director of the Fitchburg State College Library.

The Mars system is slated to

be operable by the first of March or no later than spring break. Students will be receiving cards in their mailboxes to fill out and send back to the library. This information will determine the students personal identification number to be placed on their ID cards.

The identification number will allow students to check books out of the Fitchburg State Library as well as many others. "The C.W. Mars network includes several college and local libraries as well as a special library in Springfield," said Foley.

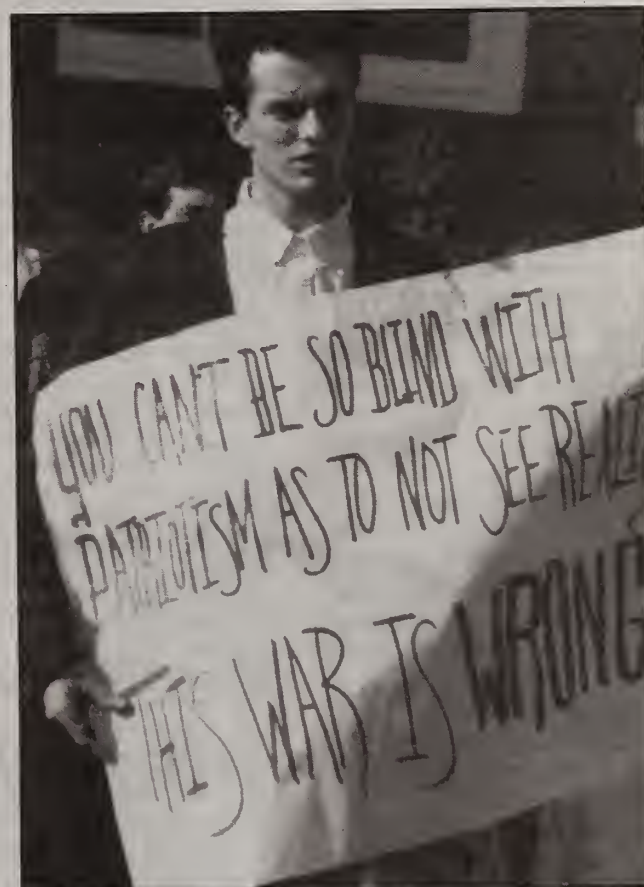
This network of libraries allows people to cross check each library for a certain book or publication. "If we don't have the book, another affiliated li-

brary might and the student would be able to access it," said Foley.

The library system now contains one computer terminal, but Foley hoped to be able to obtain at least one more. "We would have one for checking out books and one for returning books," stated Foley.

During recent months Foley and his staff have been meticulously placing computerized labels on books which allows them to be scanned. Foley stresses the labels are not for security reasons. "People have been ripping the label from the books so they won't have to check them out," said Foley.

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Sean Kerneally expresses anti-war opinion during the F.S.C. rally. Look for a story on the rally in the next issue.

The Strobe Staff

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A Jewish perspective on the Middle East

by Douglas Dea
 Contributing Writer

There are many opinions and fears concerning the continuing conflict in the Middle East. Though none are so hopeful as those expressed by a local Jewish alumnus of Fitchburg State College. Craig Rothman, founder of the Jewish Student Union, is an armchair scholar of the Middle East and has been maintaining a close watch over the Persian Gulf War and the ever changing politics of the region.

"America has a worldwide reputation as a policeman," Rothman, a 1990 graduate of FSC said. "Clearly the action of attacking and annexing a sovereign nation is good enough reason for the US or any nation to get involved. Another reason is the threat to regional stability. Regional space is everyone's concern and not just an American one."

Israel's role in the war is a pivotal one for both sides, according to Rothman. The Arab alliance can be held together as long as Israel remains out of the fighting. When Iraq's missiles hit Israel, fears rose that Israeli President Shamir would order a retaliatory strike. Rothman agrees with Shamir's decision to withhold attacking Iraq. "There's nothing Israel really can or should do in the conflict. What action would they try to take given other nations are pounding them silly now? The course of action Israel is taking now

will aid it greatly."

He is optimistic about Israel's future. "I see Israel as a winner in the conflict. They may be able to get into the European Common Market now. They may get Japan and other western nations to sign agreements to stop honoring the Arab led boycott. One immediate note of change is the quick foreign policy change by the Bush administration toward Israel." It is now more open and closer to Israel than at any time in the past.

Politically Israel will be better off after the war. The Palestine Liberation Organization and the Palestinian problem has been a major block to Israel's diplomatic efforts. Rothman predicts that these irritants will shrink in potency. "The PLO has gone anti-west and pro-Saddam, the moderate nations will stop funding the PLO. The US has ceased dialogue with the PLO. After the war is over the PLO is over; the PLO will be finished, as its funding will dry up and its credibility in the Arab world will be nil. The cause of the Palestinians will be a dead issue now that the world knows what the PLO really is: a terrorist group that bribes its people into supporting it."

Where could the Palestinians in Israel go?: "Jordan was a part of Palestine. Hence 80 percent of Jordanians are Palestinians. Jordan is, in effect, a Palestinian state now."

Rothman sees the region to be more stable in the future. "In Kuwait the government of the Emir will be restored and there will be a lot more civil

liberties allowed under the restored regime. Egypt will always be dependent on the US for its aid and Israel for its irrigation technology.

For the first time US troops have been based on Arab soil. I can see the relations between the US and the Arab world as growing stronger. However, there's no hope for peace between Jordan and Israel."

Rothman continues, "Syria has one of the most pitiful economies on the globe. I see the Syrian leader, Assad, as the next crisis in this area. Syria is the greatest threat to Israel and its security in the area."

Iraq's future is less certain: Any final solution should be decided by the combined Arab nations and not by the US. "We should be given the right to have a military presence in the area. Iraq will probably be divided up among some nations such as Jordan, Turkey and Syria as a reward for their participation. It would be a great idea to give Jordan possession of some oil fields so that its third world economy could be given a push in the right direction." Rothman believes Iraq will not be allowed to have an army in any case. "I believe Saddam Hussein, himself, should be an Arab problem. If we capture him, we should turn him over to an Arab nation for trial."

Rothman, who has talked with the Israeli ambassador and has collected a wide range of sources, believes his information is trustworthy. The next two years will prove their accuracy.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Election Packets for nominations for Executive Board of SGA and class officers will be out March 4-14th and March 25-29th. Elections will be held April 9-11th.

Counseling Services will be sponsoring Adult Children of Alcoholics meetings every Thursday throughout the semester. Meetings are held from 3:30-5:30p.m. in room 312 of the Hammond Building.

The Freshman Foundation Year will be presenting "The Race for Double Helix" on Wednesday, February 27 in the Richard Kent Recital Hall (CM 150) at 3:30p.m.

"How a Military Draft Would Work" will be presented by Dr. Alberghene and Dr. Alonso will be held today in room G-04 of the Hammond Building from 12:30-1:30p.m. This is an informal, brown bag luncheon available to students and faculty.

This evening at 7:00p.m., in the Kent Recital Hall, "Encouraging Greater Racial Sensitivity" will be held. The moderator will be Aaron Thomas. Guest speakers include: Norm Van Lier, of the Chicago Bulls, Luis Tiant, formerly of the Boston Red Sox, Robert Weathers of the New England Patriots, Olympic Gold Medalist, Holly Metcalf and Bob McCabe, from the Olivas Pro Basketball Team in Portugal.

DAKA seeks student involvement

by James Finn
 Strobe staff

Students can keep college tuition lower by being better informed. Students have always complained about the way in which the cafeteria is run. According to Shawn Monaghan, assistant manager of operations at the cafeteria, the students own lack of involvement in cafeteria activities leads to these very complaints.

Monaghan says the main problem in the cafeteria is the same each year. Many students do not bus their tables. "These people (students) are supposed to be adults, but many of them refuse to bus their trays." This creates more work for DAKA employees.

Every tray not bussed constitutes more time for employees to work. This year Monaghan may be forced to hire more help just to pick up trays left by the students, and that will cost students more money because meal prices will rise. "Our only choice," he said, "would be to raise fees to compensate for the extra employees."

The DAKA meal plan is relatively inexpensive. Each dinner costs \$3.50 on the meal plan, and includes all the food and beverages a student can consume. The same \$3.50 buys

only a quarter pounder, large fry and a medium Coke at McDonald's. Monaghan contends that DAKA food is equal to McDonald's.

The food plan at Fitchburg State College is a bargain compared to some private colleges. At Assumption College in Worcester, the meal plan costs nearly double the \$1,250 average here. According to Monaghan the food plan at Fitchburg could cost up to \$2,300, but state school's prices have a ceiling.

Monaghan also says another common student gripe is that the menu never changes. "I always hear students complain that the food never changes, but they have the power to change the menu." The meal planning board which consists of students and DAKA employees decides what will be served. No students have ever signed up to be on the board, despite notices around campus. "If the students took time to inform themselves, they would not have as much to complain about."

With tuition prices on the rise, students should try to do whatever they can to minimize college costs. By simply busing their trays students can help to avoid raising the meal plan prices. By taking an active stance students can have a say in what they eat, while minimizing the friction between DAKA employees and themselves.

FEATURES

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February 27, 1991

The Strobe

Magician appears at Percival Auditorium

by Carolyn Palo
Strobe staff

He walked on to the stage dressed in a black tuxedo with a red bow tie. He had a magical look about him, a sparkle of trickery danced in his eyes. He looked at the crowd in front of him, smiled and gulped down a ball of fire.

Swallowing fire isn't a problem for Phillip Jennings. He's been a magician for twenty-three years. Originally from Newark, New Jersey, Jennings came to Fitchburg State College's Percival Auditorium for the first time to perform colorful, exciting and amusing illusions.

His performance began by challenging the audience's visual perception as he held

fire in his bare hands, turned a silver horn into an oversized bouquet of flowers, and turned what appeared to be a plain black paper bag into a live bird.

Jennings also created amusement with the sudden appearance of a black rabbit from nowhere. When asked what the rabbit's name was Jennings replied, "Ebony, get it?" Which brought rounds of laughter. There was also plenty of audience participation, which added a good amount of humor to the show. Participants were instructed to do certain routines which proved magical results. One individual found an egg in her pocket. Three individuals, two females and one male, were instructed to perform an act

that led to the loss of the male's boxer shorts.

One of the last illusions performed by Jennings was called the "Sands of Egypt." He explained that this routine was performed thousands of years ago by Egyptian priests. It involved sands of three different colors which he dropped into a bowl full of water, changing the color of the water, and then removing the sand from the water which appeared in dry form instead of wet. After that we witnessed a girl from the audience get sliced in half by a sharp knife held by Jennings. Surprisingly enough, she walked away unscathed.

This enjoyable performance was part of African-American History Month, sponsored by the Programs Committee.

Eisner returns with a new perspective

by Mike Shelton
Strobe staff

The old adage "It's never too late to turn back" is a phrase that seems to have lost its meaning in today's fast-track society where "turning back" seems to mean losing "ground" in the great rat race. Some, like John Eisner would disagree.

If you've been through the Herlihy Hall lobby on a Saturday night, you've seen Eisner working at the front desk. His sparse beard and horn-rimmed glasses make him look a bit older than the average Fitchburg State College jun-

ior and indeed he is older - by about seven years.

This is Eisner's second time through at FSC. He first came to FSC as a freshman in 1981 and graduated with a BA in English four years later. After that it was off to Iowa State University for two more years and a MA in English. Eisner has planned to go on and pursue a PhD at SUNY college but a part-time job in a hospital emergency room changed all that.

"It was the closest thing to real magic that I'd ever seen," Eisner recalled, "the way that the doctors and nurses could

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Di's Diary Mourning Mail

by Dianne Brown
Strobe staff

Why is it that whenever we go to our mailboxes we feel the need to squint through that little crack on the side but then always open the box anyway, just in case? I remember when I was a freshman and I was so ecstatic to have my very own mailbox and know that everything in it was all for me. After a semester however, it occurred to me that it's more than just getting mail addressed to you, it's getting mail at all.

There's something about receiving mail that proves you exist. It acts as some kind of assurance that your life touches others if even in the remotest way. Thinking has nothing to do with it. I receive mail, therefore, I exist. Peering into my empty mailbox, I witness it transforming itself into a wide laughing mouth and it is only then that I discover the horrid truth. I don't exist.

Wallowing in my existential blues, I'm suddenly possessed with the gripping terror that if I don't in fact, exist then what on Earth am I doing killing myself over this Calculus exam? Unfortunately, my postal theory of existence makes a lame excuse to flaming parents with my report card in their teeth. I know this... I've tried

Needless to say, I have taken action in my life. I have simply sent away for damn near everything. I have Sea Monkeys on my Abdominizer to prove it. Actually, I have little colored crystals in a bowl of water that I'm still trying to find primate life in.

I think the main reason I don't get mail is because I never send letters. As Newton's Postal Law (Brown abridged version) states, for every empty letter writing feeling there is an equal but opposite letter receiving feeling. Basically, writing a letter is a terribly empty task. I sit down and write my most intimate, personal and precious thoughts on a slice of Mead, cover it up and dedicate it to one distant soul. Then, (if I remember) I slap a 29 cent sticker on the corner and feed it to a big blue box on a lonely side street. Somehow, I can't resist watching my tiny letter slide off that big blue tongue and become swallowed up with all those other lonely, little letters. As I walk away I can almost hear a tiny distant belch. Walking home, I imagine the reactions to each line so clearly that by the time I get home I absolutely have to call the person and phonetically convulse into the receiver the entire contents of my letter. Of course then, I'll get some mail alright, I'll get my phone bill.

Colds and flus and what to do

by Phyllis Leone
Student Health Services

Due to the cold of winter and the stress of school work, it is easy to get run down and be susceptible to colds and the flu. First of all, to try to remain healthy it is important to eat a well balanced diet every day, meaning eating foods from each of the four food groups. Secondly, try and exercise daily but remember before starting an exercise plan to check with your doctor. Also, try to get enough rest every day, not just getting "catch up" sleep over the weekend. Finally, maintain yearly or bi-yearly exams with your doctor.

Even if you are taking care of yourself, you at some point may come down with a cold or the flu. What is the difference between the two, and when should you seek out professional help? First of all a cold has a fever below 100.5 degrees, and the flu has a fever of over 100.5 degrees. Both the cold and the flu have sneezing, headache, coughing, and sore throat, but with the flu there is added body aches and pains and weakness. Many of the above symptoms can be treated at home but it is important to know when to seek out

professional help.

For nasal congestion use steam or hot drinks to help break up congestion. Don't use decongestants for more than three days, and blow your nose gently because mucus may infect ears and sinuses. Seek help if mucus is yellow or green, if there is any pain in the ears, neck, or sinuses or if symptoms last over ten days.

For fever and chills drink lots of fluid such as water and juice. Aspirin or aspirin substitutes may relieve pain and reduce fever but avoid aspirin if you have flu like symptoms. Seek help if fever lasts for more than seven days, or if temperature is over 100 degrees.

For sore throats use a humidifier, sugar water gargles, and suck on hard candies. Seek help if soreness lasts for more than seven days, if you have an earache, a fever of over 100 degrees for 48 hours, or a temperature of 101 for over 24 hours.

For a dry cough, suck on hard candies and use a cough suppressant if coughing keeps you awake at night. Seek help if cough lasts for more than ten days or if fever exceeds 101 degrees.

For a productive cough use a cough medicine with an expectorant, inhale cool mist or

steam, and gargle with warm sugar water. Seek help if mucus is green, yellow, or bloody, if cough causes sharp chest pain, if it lasts over ten days, or if fever exceeds over 102 degrees.

For nausea and vomiting, seek help if there is no improvement in 48 hours or if it is accompanied by persistent abdominal pain.

For diarrhea, seek help within 48 hours if there is no improvement.

If you do need to seek professional help, there are some pointers to remember for your visit. Record your symptoms when they happened, were they accompanied by other symptoms, and what medication you have taken.

Before your appointment, write down all of your questions so that all of your needs are met. Volunteer information about your family and your life style that is relevant to your present condition. Understand instructions - be clear about what is being said to you, ask questions.

Follow through with instructions about treatment and medications. Remember to take all of a prescription and return for a follow up appointment if requested.

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War. . .

and are available during their office hours and by appointment for questions regarding the draft process.

Dr. Alonso urges students to come and talk with her, "Students should not feel shy." She will discuss the different options available for students, should the draft be imposed. Dr. Alonso also stated, "The draft process will happen quickly, students need information prior to this happening." She will have forms for deferments from the draft available as well as information about what it means to be a conscientious objector. Dr. Alonso also welcomes students who wish to discuss any other aspect of the war. Her office hours for counseling are Thursday from 9:30-10:30 a.m. and by appointment in Miller Hall, room 2.

Dr. Alonso and Dr. Alberghene's first discussion entitled "How a Military Draft Would Work," will meet in room G04 of the Hammond Building on February 27 from 12:30-1:30 p.m. This will be an informal brown bag luncheon meeting available to students and faculty. Topics of future meetings will be posted around campus.

Dr. Shirley Wagner, professor of social science, has opened her Global Issues class to anyone who would like to sit in. For the past two weeks

she has held her class in the Ellis White Lecture Hall. Dr. Wagner said she had "intended to devote a week of her class to discussing war as a threat to the globe, but after the war started it seemed wise to rearrange the class schedule accordingly."

Dr. Wagner's credentials also include an affiliation with a Fitchburg community peace group called "Grass Roots Action for Nuclear Disarmament," a co-sponsor of Nuclear Awareness Day.

Recently, Dr. Edmund Thomas, professor of history, gave the first in a series of lectures in Aubuchon Hall. He discussed the events which led up to the war in the Gulf. Dr. Thomas said it was surprising that "many students did not know the real reasons behind the war." After his lecture, Dr. Thomas opened the floor to questions. Dr. Thomas remarked that, "There were a number of questions asked, and the students showed a great interest in wanting to know more."

As the war continues, professors will be joining together in an attempt to help students better understand and cope with the reality of the Persian Gulf War. Thankfully they are here to help us to discern the facts from the vast amount of rumors and speculation that we are exposed to every day.

Donna,
You are the prettiest bank teller I know. You can cash, deposit and withdraw my big check anytime.
Love, Squid

To Taz the Mohawk,
Your belly is bigger than mine.

NH RA's
What a Trip! Who needs a hot tub anyway? Let's do it again!
Missed M, B, & E

Valentine,
Thanks for the card and chocolate
Gotcha!
A

Alien,
Understand this language fast because this is how they write on mars! φαστ φυγκ Would'n't you like to know what this means??

Lilly S,
You are the best thing to come my way in my entire lifetime. I'll love you always!
Danny Mohawk

Hawks,
Let's wait someone and keep up the tradition, Lon's just waiting for us. Mohawk Country is everywhere, especially Snow St. SOAGETAHA, D.C. Mohawk

Jeff & Mike,
We are really counting those swears, so watch it or else NO SURPRISE!!!
The Lamo's

Pamster,
Craving the Idaho!

"the devil"
Thanks for the pizza and Chinese food!

Norm, Normo, Normy, Normmeister
Can we stop our world and melt with you? We totally love you! Play that funky guitar!
Love, Melis & Mer

To the Sigma Tau Gammas
Football is a full contact sport, tackle I believe. Think about it!!
The Gavs

To the Neasylon pledges,
Keep up the good work, you're doing an excellent job.
The Gavs

To my roommates in Th206
Leon clean your sheets, Squid learn to drink, Morris get a clue, KP get a 2.8, John do your dishes, Doug where are you?

Nanciann,
Hi, directness, forwardness, this is the way to my heart!!
I see so much of you in my

future. I guess I'll just sit back and investigate.

Toyota Giraffe,
Fun, Fun, fun til our daddy takes the sofa bed away.
Melvis

Chris,
Remember one cozy T-house, 2 hot tubs, 8 trucks, many cars, 3 hotel rooms, camping trip, cliffs, 1 baseball field. I miss you and look forward to making more memories.

To FSC students past and present who are in Operation Desert Storm. Good luck and God Bless.

Jim G.,
We all miss you!
Love, Your old friends

Gale,
The time has come to expand and excel. For we have just begun. It's obvious, I can tell.

Hey Gretsky,
Watch out for cannibals. How many sandwiches does it take to make a picnic?

Bertha Babe,
Where were you the other night at the pub? I waited all night for you by the jukebox. Will you be there next week?
Sheldon

Tracy,
Hi old roomie! Give me a call
Bobbie

Personals

library

The library has to replace the stolen books. "Not all books are replaceable, some are out of print. Others we bought 10 years ago for \$20 dollars will now cost over \$40," stated Foley. The labels are for identification purposes only.

The new system will also aid in demographics. It will be able to tell library staff which books are circulating most as well as who is reading what. "We will be able to determine whether seniors check out more books than the freshmen," said Foley. This will help to keep the library running efficiently.

Foley hopes to one day replace the card catalog with the computer system. This would save students a lot of wasted time searching for a book that might already be checked out. The computer system would be able to determine if the book was in or not.

"Computers are where the future is going, and Fitchburg State is part of the future."

Assault

(continued from pg. 1)

Thompson said that he and his friends did not respond to the yelling. "I know enough to walk away from that sort of thing," he said.

This isn't the first time Thompson has been victimized in Fitchburg. Thompson said that he had once been robbed on the front steps of a friend's North Street home by three men, one brandishing an iron pipe.

Martinez maintained that neither he, Cassilla nor Luis Ramos carried any weapons to fight with the students. He is quoted in the Sentinel saying "We didn't hit him with nothing. That's why we were surprised when the police said we used those things." Nevertheless, witnesses report that weapons were used. "Obviously, some type of weapon was used," said Public Safety Director William Cunning-

ham, "because the injuries are not consistent with what you'd expect from bare hands."

Cunningham stressed the dangers of walking around off-campus late at night. "Probably ninety percent of the cases we get are alcohol related - students walking to and from off-campus parties...it's why we don't condone keg parties," The Director of Public Safety also dispelled an earlier rumor that the fight in front of Hammond was somehow gang-related.

As of this writing, the Fitchburg Police Department's investigation is still continuing as police interview witnesses to the assault. In the interim, Residence Life is still urging students to walk in large groups and take advantage of the campus escort service to avoid future incidents.

Letter to the editor

Dear Editor:

For those who missed the Fashion Plus article in the February 13, 1991 issue of The Strobe, chiffon is the "come-back fabric," pearls are the women's accessory of the month, and ties are the men's accessory of the month. The article went on to say what colors to wear on the slopes, how to pick the right shade of lipstick, and how to do a home

manicure.

It seems to me that there are more important things to worry about and more important stories that The Strobe could cover. Leave the fashion articles to Cosmopolitan and Glamour.

It's great to see The Strobe is trying out new ideas, but I think you need to try again.

Sincerely,

Michelle Long

Frankly Speaking

by Phil Frank



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Question of the week

The Strobe

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How is the recession affecting you?



Times are tough. It's difficult to find a job. I've had to cut back on social expenses. The price of gas is outrageous.
Dave White



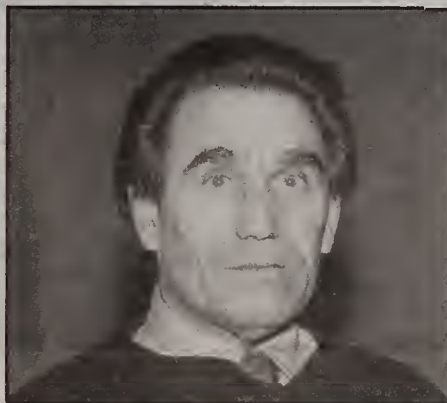
I can't pay my landlord. I can't find a job in the field I was trained in. The whole thing stinks.
Keith Rice



I work at the college, but it's not enough. Even if I get a summer job, I still won't be able to afford school next year. I can't get a job for experience because it won't pay enough.
Courtney Phaneuf



I have two part-time jobs, but I still have trouble keeping up with the bills. I've looked to get a third job, but no one is hiring.
Karen Gray



It's difficult. Cost factors are going up and many kids aren't going to be able to attend school. I feel bad for our graduates who aren't going to find jobs. I just tighten my belt.
Professor Lorenzen



It's making me poor. My girlfriend and I go dutch more often now. I'm outraged at the high price of stamps.
Jamie Day

Eisner returns with a new perspective

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heal people and relieve pain with the simplest procedures. After the first week, I knew what I really wanted."

Originally from Leominster, Eisner returned home, after his first semester at SUNY, and reapplied to Fitchburg State for nursing.

When so many people are struggling to get out with a degree, why did Eisner come back to start over. "It was a case of the ends justifying the means. I knew that I wanted to be a nurse and help people in a personal way so it wasn't such a hard decision," said Eisner.

Reclining in his office chair with plaid shirt, faded jeans, and battered sneakers that have "seen fourteen states and eight countries," John Eisner certainly looks comfortable with his choice to come back. In

fact, he claims that it was the classic plan of high school - college - grad school that made him uncomfortable.

"I always felt like I was in the middle of a cattle stampede - always running towards some unknown goal and never having a chance to stop and look around. I wasn't happy in English but I thought it was too late to pursue something different. When I started working at the emergency room, I found something that really meant something to me."

For Eisner, that meant leaving school and taking five months off to travel and reassess his priorities before returning to Fitchburg. "At first I felt very guilty - like I was quitting and letting everyone down by starting over, but I knew I wouldn't be happy if I didn't go

back."

Going through school a second time is turning out to be easier than he had anticipated. "Lord knows the classes aren't any easier the second time, but I find that I'm much more interested in what I'm doing because I'm working towards a goal - something substantial that I want. I think my professors sense it too. I participate in class more and I'm getting more out of it. I enjoy it more than I ever did seven years ago."

Eisner said he wishes that there wasn't so much pressure on students to choose a college and major when they are in high school because they often end up pursuing something they're not really interested in.

"Half the people I know hate their classes. That should

betelling them something. Everyone is so scared of changing directions; admitting they weren't right on track and putting in a little extra time to find what they like. There is this big expectation that you should know what you want from the beginning and it's just not true."

Rising tuitions may have something to do with student's desire to finish quickly, Eisner admits, but he still insists that finding the right major is more important. Eisner has put himself through school thus far with part-time and summer jobs.

"It's not easy balancing work with studying but it's been worth it. I'll take a year off to save up for my senior year if I have to."

Senior year may not be Eisner's last. If he is unsatisfied as a Registered Nurse, Eisner said he may pursue a Nurse-Practitioner's license - which would require still more schooling.

"I'll go to school until I know everything I need to know to do what I want to do. Once you realize that you only have to live up to the expectations you set for yourself, the time pressure disappears."

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ARTS ENTERTAINMENT

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February 27, 1991

The Strobe

Art of Black Dance educates and entertains

by Michelle Pouliot
Strobe Staff

February is African American History Month. Highlighting the campus events celebrating this culture was "The Art of Black Dance and Music," which was sponsored by the Programs Committee, on Tuesday, February 19.

Narrator Valerie Stephens wove a tale of the sons and daughters from tribal Africa, who, through their dances, stories and music paid homage to their native land. These "children" danced and sang to express their intense pride in their heritage and their longing for home.

Viewers of a culture other than that of African-Americans were treated to something exotically different. However, everyone in the audience understood the language of music. Through the pounding drum rhythms and vibrating Djembe tunes, people learned about themselves as well as black heritage.



Art of Black Dance-The DANCE MANDIANE

Traditional vivid costumes of tie-dye and weaves, and beads and feathers, were worn by the artists. The performers wildly expressive and energetic dances were fun to watch and definitely inspiring.

Amidst all of the excitement was a lesson in Black History. The audience learned about tribal Africa, it's extensions to the South American islands, and the progression into contemporary entertain-

ment.

Interrupting the island beats of Haiti and the tribal dances of Mali was an interlude of Black jazz and swing, with a blues number on piano and modern percussion and vocals.

This was a delightful but unexpected surprise, that possibly would've been more in context at the end of the program.

Edward Dunn said, "Each individual artist had their own idea, which, put together, became the story they portrayed." Other audience impressions were equally enthusiastic.

The night's only drawback was the length of the concert. Two hours of entertainment could have been contained in little over one hour's time, but this in no way detracted from the artists' talents. Nor did it negate their purpose. De Ama Battle, the troupe's founder and director, states that their mission is "To teach the common history of mankind through dance, music, and folklore and to educate and entertain audiences using the culturally diverse expressions of our African Heritage."

Judging from the night's success and the favorable audience reaction, the troupes' goal was accomplished.

Strobe File Photo

King Lear, a royal performance

by Linda Glover
Contributing writer

Recently the National Shakespeare Company performed King Lear at Anna Maria College. The English club briefed themselves on the plot, so it was easy to understand as the story unraveled on stage. The actors spoke their lines confidently across the barren set, which was punctuated at times by shadows of a full moon.

Costumes were appropriately medieval, and the face of King Lear was masterfully done up to resemble a mask similar to those worn by ancient Greek

Tragedians.

King Lear, played by Dan Snow, gave a pallid performance compared to the saucy knavery of Jerry Gomis' Edmund. Edmund, a conniving bastard son, who plots to possess lands and women, used modern gestures to charm the audience to his corruptible side. This character has remained one of Shakespeare's most popular villains due to his devious, audience milking hypocrisy which Gomez capitalized upon.

Lacking the virulent energy that is noticeable in some aggressive amateur

companies, this version of King Lear featured a spunky fool and some memorable bitchy daughters. But the program didn't include the fool in the credits, which confused the English club entourage. Also, stage directions were slightly skewed. Characters often ran on stage and stood still while they spoke their lines, and ran off again.

Over all, the English club enjoyed King Lear. It will be interesting to compare this version with the Loeb Theaters version in May, which will star F. Murray Abram in the title role.

All in the Family retrospect

The TV show that still has people talking

By Billy Marsden
Strobe staff

CBS Television network recently presented a special retrospective of one of its most popular shows of all time, "All In The Family." The 90 minute special which aired Saturday February 16th at 8:00p.m. on channel 7 was hosted by its creator, Norman Lear. The program featured interviews with core cast members Carroll O'Connor, Jean Stapleton, Rob Reiner and Sally Struthers. It also featured interviews with viewers who loved the show or hated it for its humorous look at American attitudes towards various ethnic groups.

Those who were interviewed were people who had written to the show some 15 years ago and were contacted by CBS to appear during the program to let their feelings be known. This created a nice balance of how the show has been received by the general public.

Cast members discussed their

feelings on what it was like to be in a show which became the mold of most sitcoms today. It was one of the first shows that dared to discuss political and ethnic topics without feeling any discomfort. The characters were able to make some of life's best and worst moments into something capable of putting a smile on someone's face. The show was such a sitcom pioneer that censors ordered a disclaimer to be put at the beginning of the show to inform people of the show's intentions.

The show featured a variety of skits ranging from Archie meeting Sammy Davis Jr., to the Stivik family moving out west. Some of the skits shown were favorites of the cast members themselves.

One disappointment was that they did not interview any of the regular supporting cast members such as Bea Arthur, Mike Evans, Isabelle Sanford or Sherman Helmsley all who were a big part of the first few seasons.

The production staff is currently trying new layouts. This one can be credited to a former F.S.C. student. We hope you like it.

Whats hot...Whats not

by Mike Matteson
Strobe Staff

The Pop Will Eat Itself, *Cure For Sanity*: Clocking in at over one hour, the fourth release from this band is anything but predictable. The Poppies delve deep into the heart of house techno-acid dance garbage and don't come up for air. Next to the Beastie Boys, Pop Will Eat Itself has always had the most appealing attempt at white rap, but *Cure For Sanity* suffers from lack of muscle. The good songs are spread so thin throughout the album that it becomes near impossible to sit through the whole release. *Cure For Sanity* over-samples the listener to death. (C)

Daniel Ash *Coming Down*: The long time vocalist for Love and Rockets was responsible for supplying the band with a quirky, rough edge to contrast David J's acoustic inclinations. *Coming Down* illustrates this wonderfully. The sparse arrangements, breathy vocals, and tales of despera-

tion are trademark Ash. *Coming Down* is split right down the middle, with the first side containing more mainstream pop songs than the second, which spins off into more experimental territories. Lovers of Love and Rockets must have this album along with David J's previous effort if you want a complete dissection of the Love and Rockets sound. (A-)

Enigma *MCMXC x. D.* Oh boy, new age meets house music. You know it was bound to happen sometime. The album holds its own through the third track, the mega-hit "Sadness," but flounders quickly. The idea of chanting monks mixed over floating keyboards, a hip-hop beat and a woman whispering sweet-nothings in French is appealing for one track, but quickly grates soon after. If nothing else, this is a novelty album worth owning for its uniqueness and vision, even though you have to laugh at its attempt at seriousness. (C-)

Lady Falcon's season ends in defeat

by Cheryl Hines
Strobe staff

Fitchburg State's women's basketball team was defeated by the Bridgewater State College Bears 56-49 in the first round of the MASCAC playoffs. The first half ended with Bridgewater leading 24-19 despite FSC's Wendy Woodard's three 3-pointers.

Both teams played a very physical and hard game but Bridgewater had the lead at the end of the half and FSC could not come back.

"Both teams played very poorly in the first half and very well in the second. However, Bridgewater had the lead and kept it," said FSC coach Steve

Forte.

The high scorers for the first round playoff game were Lynn Dorow, Jessica Jones and Wendy Woodard. This game was much like the entire Lady Falcon season with the team playing well and never giving up, but not having quite enough to win.

The Falcon women will lose three seniors next season but should have six players returning. The women have some very talented guards and center Joyce Teso should return from her injury to help FSC next season.

"With good recruits and six underclassmen remaining next season we will do well," said Forte.

Women's track

(continued from page 8)

points in the high jump, while Joan squeezed out teammate Kelly Gilligan to tie for sixth in the 55 meter dash.

Coann White, who has improved steadily all season, got off to a smashing start and finished 4th in the 55 meter hurdles with a time of 9.6.

Melissa Lombardi, coming off an injury last week, surprised the competition by running 3:23.5 in the 1000 meters, taking fourth place. This was the longest distance she's run competitively this season.

Debbie Armour, always a steady contender, took 7th in long jump (14' 7") and 7th in triple jump (31' 1 1/2"). New member Unicia Young showed promise in both the high jump and long jump, while Diane Tower also made the grade with some decent tosses of the weight and shot put.

As the Indoor season winds down, the women eagerly look forward to leaving the sub-zero running conditions in the dust.

Poetry Review

by Kelly Buckowski
Strobe staff

I read in a poem:
to talk is divine.
But the god's don't speak:
they make and unmake worlds
while men do the talking.
They play frightening games
without words

The spirit descends,
loosening tongues,
but doesn't speak words:
it speaks fire.
Lit by a god,
language becomes
A prophecy
of flames and a tower
of smoke and collapse
of syllables burned;
ash without meaning

The word of man
is the daughter of death
We talk because we are mortal:
words are not signs, they are years.
Saying what they say,
The words we are saying
say time: they name us.
We are time's names.

To talk is human.

Octavio Paz's "Flame, speech" disagrees with the statement "to talk is divine." Paz constantly reinforces his feelings on the relevance of speech to gods and to humans.

Paz begins by rebutting what he has read. He states that "gods don't speak," but rather "make and unmake worlds." It is understandable that he associates divineness with gods, but he soon disagrees with these stereotypes that gods "play frightening games without words." These games can be interpreted as a natural disaster, or a worldly crisis. In any case, Paz insinuates that gods are not all that divine after all.

In the second stanza, Paz believes that gods allow us to speak and again, that gods do not speak. In addition, he states that language is just a foretelling of future natural and worldly disasters.

Paz thinks that speech pertains only to those who are alive on Earth. Stating that "we talk because we are mortal: words are not signs, they are years," re-enforces Paz's theory that human speech is a representation of our lives here on Earth and as the years pass, it makes history. Due to the fact that this cannot be achieved when we die because of the irrelevance of speech and time, Paz insists that "to talk is human." We have an advantage over the gods in our ability to express ourselves verbally.

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FSC hockey storms into playoffs

by Mike Ippolito
Strobe staff

Fitchburg State's hockey team continued its ECAC North/South winning streak recently with wins over New Hampshire College and Bentley College. On Saturday, February 16, the Falcons traveled to Manchester, New Hampshire and came away with an 8-2 victory. FSC's game versus Bentley was much more difficult but the Falcons managed a 5-4 victory at Wallace Civic Center on February 19. FSC's record is now 19-3 overall and 17-0 in the ECAC North/South. The North/South winning streak is now at 32 games and counting.

NH got on the board first with a goal at 18:25 of the first period. NH held on to a 1-0 lead as the teams headed into the locker room for the first intermission.

Whatever it was FSC coach Dean Fuller said to his team in the locker room it obviously worked as the Falcons came out and pummeled NH with eight goals, six in the first 11:23 of the period. Steve Sullivan got things going with a goal at 1:97 of the period and Steve Witkus put the Falcons up to stay at 3:25 of the period giving his squad a 2-1 lead. A short-

handed goal by Ken Venis at 4:26 and a power play goal by Mark Abbott at 6:19 made the lead 4-1. Though the 4-1 lead may have been enough to take the game, the Falcons were only halfway through.

Witkus' second goal of the game at 9:24 along with John Daly's goal at 11:23 made the score 6-1 for FSC before NH finally countered at 14:55 to make the score 6-2. Derek Kendell answered that with a goal of his own at 15:58 and Mark Barry finally finished off the scoring spree at 17:16.

Joe Bina picked up the win for the Falcons with 18 saves and Mark Bruno finished up between the pipes for FSC.

FSC's next game looked like it would be more of the same with Bentley entering the game with only a 10-13-1 record and FSC having the home ice advantage, but Bentley proved to be a very tough test for the Falcons.

Bentley, as NH had done took a 1-0 first period lead, but in this game FSC came back before the period ended leading 2-1. Gordon Dunn tied the game for the Falcons with a goal off of a beautiful feed in front from Steve Sullivan. Todd Flynn gave FSC the lead with only ten seconds

remaining in the period, by a power play goal, his third goal of the season.

In the second period, Chris Paone tied the game at 2-2 for Bentley and 14 seconds later Bentley took a 3-2 lead. Less than a minute after that goal, Ralph Richardson put his squad up 4-2 with a slapshot past FSC goaltender Mike Maguire. Joe Bina replaced Maguire in net and it seemed as if the entire FSC team picked up their game for the remainder of the period. Mark Abbott scored a short-handed goal to pull FSC within 4-3 as they headed to the locker room.

Abbott also got FSC an essential tying goal early in the third period with a slapshot from the faceoff circle. Abbott's second goal of the game was his 25th of the season giving him the team lead in that category. Steve Gromko scored the game winner for FSC, putting in the rebound off a Scott Livingston slapshot. FSC was tested in the closing minutes but managed to hold on for the 5-4 victory.

FSC's next game will be in the ECAC semi-finals against an unnamed opponent. In any case FSC will have the home ice advantage throughout the ECAC playoffs.

Men's track finishes seventh overall

by Alton Tuttle, Jr.
Contributing writer

Led by All-American Jeff Moda, the men's track team finished seventh out of twenty-eight teams in the ECAC regional meet last Saturday at Bowdoin College in Brunswick, Maine.

Moda, from West Boxford, Ma., won the 200 meter run in 22.57 seconds, a new facility record at Bowdoin. He also placed second in the 55 meter dash, finishing in 6.53 seconds, his personal best at that distance.

Sophomore Jim Navin finished second in the high jump at 6'5". Navin jumped in his first meet since being injured last December before final exams.

FSC's Chris Smith captured second place with a vault of 18'6".

John Cauoette of Leominster ran his best time of the year in the 55 meter dash. He is a Worcester State transfer student, and led the conference in punt returns for the football team last fall.

Other placers earning points for FSC were: Jason Culinane, placing 6th in the 5000 meters with a time of 15 minutes and 23 seconds, Francisco Hernandez finished 8th in the 5000 meters, in 15 minutes, 37 seconds, and Rodney Simuel placed 8th in the 400 meters with a time of 51.80 seconds.

Coach Jim Sheehan was pleased with all performances in the meet. "We got 34 points and finished seventh overall. Many schools had no placing points at all."

Despite FSC's performance, the meet was won by Tufts University.

Women's track takes fifth in Championship

by Linda Glover
Contributing writer

Several outstanding performances placed Fitchburg State's Women's Track Team in a fifth place finish at the New England Division III Indoor Championships. The championships were held on February 16 at Bates College in Maine. Seventeen FSC women qualified for this fifteen-team event, an achievement in itself.

Frosty arctic conditions greeted the women, who enjoyed an overnight stay at the Ramada Inn in Lewiston. Their leisurely breakfast was eaten with the knowledge that soon enough they'd be running

and throwing as if their lives depended on it.

Run and throw they did. Coach Jim Jellison's perennial superstars, Heather and Wendy Ewing, launched the twenty-pound weight to new heights. Both broke the old New England Division III record. Heather broke the FSC record, held by her sister Wendy, with an astounding 49'7 1/2" throw. The twins took first and second place, beating the third place throw by three feet and scoring 18 points in this event alone. Heather added the piece of resistance in the shot put with a fifth place, throwing 39 feet.

Another upcoming star whose hard work made the

difference is freshman Maritza Knight. Maritza is a sprinter who scored 10 points personally and contributed a strong leg in a stunning 4x200 meter relay. Mrs. Knight, formerly a member of an elite Panamanian Track Team, is making a strong comeback after having a baby five months ago. She ran six times, including a race that was called back and restarted.

The 4x200 meter relay team, composed of Maritza Knight, Joan McCarthy, Maureen Horan, and Tracy Lapointe, knocked three seconds off their personal best, finishing a close second to Colby with a time of 1:51.56. Tracy added more

(continued on page 7)

Men's hoop team struggles

by Cheryl Hines
Strobe staff

Fitchburg State's Mens basketball team certainly proved which FSC was better against Framingham State on the night of February 12. The Falcons defeated Framingham State 99-90. Fitchburg held on to the lead despite only a one point lead at the half. The Falcons flew past Framingham with a great second half to end their long losing streak.

The streak, unfortunately, began again in FSC's next game as the Falcons fell short of victory against North Adams by a score of 77-68, but again Fitchburg stayed close all the way.

The Falcons closed out their

season with a poorly played game against Bridgewater State. FSC traveled to Bridgewater for their final game and fell by a score of 91-65. Bridgewater State came prepared for the Falcons and FSC was in trouble. FSC's top scorers such as Dana Belair and Nelson Oliver did not have a good game and it cost the Falcons.

The Falcon men finished their regular season with a 6-17 overall record and 1-10 in the MASCAC conference. The MASCAC Tournament will give the Falcons a redeeming chance. As of press time The Strobe did not have the results of FSC's first round playoff game, but you can be sure that FSC gave their all to pull off an upset.

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